

CLAIMS

1. (Amended) An image capturing apparatus comprising:

a lighting determination unit configured to
determine whether or not a light emitting unit emits
5 light on the basis of a brightness of an object to be
photographed;

an area detection unit configured to extract an
outline of a captured image of the object that receives
light emitted by the light emitting unit, and to detect
10 an area occupied by a predetermined shape in the
captured image; and

a control unit configured to control an image
capturing operation to obtain a captured image for the
purpose of saving, on the basis of information in the
15 area detected by said area detection unit.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the
predetermined shape corresponds to a shape of face of a
person.

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3. (Amended) An image capturing apparatus comprising:

an area detection unit configured to extract an
outline of a captured image based on pre-light emission,
and to detect an area occupied by a predetermined shape
25 in the captured image;

a light control area setting unit configured to
set a light control area of a light emitting unit in

the captured image in accordance with the area detected by said area detection unit;

an arithmetic unit configured to calculate a main light emitting amount in accordance with a photometry value based on the pre-light emission in the light control area; and

a control unit configured to control to photograph an image by controlling the light emitting unit on the basis of the main light emitting amount calculated by said arithmetic unit.

4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the predetermined shape corresponds to a shape of a face of a person.

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5. The apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising a focusing unit configured to measure a distance to an object to be photographed, and wherein said light control area setting unit sets the light control area in accordance with the distance measured by said focusing unit, and the area detected by said area detection unit.

6. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein an irradiation light amount upon the pre-light emission is adjusted on the basis of the distance measured by said

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said area detection unit and sets the adjusted area as a light control area.

10. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the
5 distance is adjusted based on a focusing position of a lens.

11. (Amended) An image capturing apparatus comprising:
an area detection unit configured to extract an
10 outline of a captured image of an object to be
photographed that receives light emitted by a light
emitting unit, and to detect an area occupied by a
predetermined shape in the captured image; and
a control unit configured to determine whether or
15 not the light emitting unit emits light based on a
brightness of the object, and to control an image
capturing operation to obtain a captured image for the
purpose of saving on the basis of information in the
area detected by said area detection unit.

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12. (Amended) An image capturing apparatus comprising:
an area detection unit configured to extract an
outline of a captured image based on pre-light emission,
and to detect an area occupied by a predetermined shape
25 in the captured image; and
a control unit configured to set a light control
area of a light emitting unit in the captured image in

accordance with the area detected by said area
detection unit, to calculate a main light emitting
amount in accordance with a photometry value based on
the pre-light emission in the light control area, and
5 to photograph an image by controlling the light
emitting unit on the basis of the main light emitting
amount.

13. (Amended) A method of controlling an image capturing
10 apparatus, comprising:

a lighting determination step of determining
whether or not a light emitting unit emits light on the
basis of a brightness of an object to be photographed;
an area detection step of extracting an outline
15 of a captured image of the object that receives light
emitted by the light emitting unit, and detecting an
area occupied by a predetermined shape in the captured
image; and

a control step of controlling an image capturing
20 operation to obtain a captured image for the purpose of
saving on the basis of information in the area detected
in said area detection step.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the
25 predetermined shape corresponds to a shape of a face of
a person.

15. (Amended) A method of controlling an image capturing apparatus, comprising:

an area detection step of extracting an outline of a captured image based on pre-light emission, and
5 detecting an area occupied by a predetermined shape in the captured image;

a light control area setting step of setting a light control area of a light emitting unit in the captured image in accordance with the area detected in
10 said area detection step;

an arithmetic step of calculating a main light emitting amount in accordance with a photometry value based on the pre-light emission in the light control area; and

15 a control step of controlling to photograph an image by controlling the light emitting unit on the basis of the main light emitting amount calculated in the arithmetic step.

20 16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the predetermined shape corresponds to a shape of a face of a person.

17. The method according to claim 15, further
25 comprising a focusing step of measuring a distance to an object to be photographed, and wherein the light control area setting step includes a step of setting